

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NWES

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JAPAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MIDST OF 4 MONTH PLAN

Under the 4 month plan drawn up at the August meeting of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sept. and Oct. are the months to concentrate on though leaders training meetings in each of the 7 districts of Japan. These meetings are going forward, and by Dec. the Church hopes to have concrete results from these and the rest of their evangelistic campaign.

The two-pronged campaign will 2 aim to activate church members to accept their responsibility for individual evangelism and to encourage them to hold small neighborhood meetings in their own homes. Both of these are being emphasized in the current leadership training meetings. The laymen who attend these meetings will be briefed not only on visitation evangelism, but also on stewardship, and the current movement for union among the various Lutheran groups in Japan.

The campaign will draw to a climax during the Christmas season, when the individual efforts will be supplemented by mass meetings starting with the Sunday of November.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF LUTHERAN WOMEN'S GROUPS HOLDS CONFERENCE

The triennial conference of the Women's Societys of the Lutheran Churches was held in Hakata Church Kyushu from Sept. 14-16. The women pledged cooperation in the 4 month evangelistic campaign this wall, and discussed especially at their meeting the problem of putting a Christian "face" on the family.

LIFE AND WORK DEPARTMENT OF CENTENNARY COMMISSION HOLDS CONFERENCE

The relation of Social Work institutions to the church in Japan, and the necessity for producing a more vital Christian impact on the community were the key points in discussions at the Centenary Commission Life and Work Dept. Conference this month. The conference was held from Oct. 13-14 at Amagi Sanso, Yugashima, and was attended by about 50 social workers.

Recommendations of the conference to the executive committee of the Centenary Commission were as follows:

1. Cultivation of a spirit of service for social welfare among church members, and the training of laymen in this respect.

2. Encourage more discussions of mutual problems between the churches and social work institutions to further mutual understanding.
3. Encourage church members to cooperate with social workers by taking orphans into their homes to raise when possible.
4. Promote service projects by Women's Society's, Youth Groups, and.
5. Encourage more Christian young men to go into the field of social work.
6. Insist that social workers be not only avowed Christians but practicing Christians.
7. Search for a suitable strategy whereby the church and social work institutes can cooperate to penetrate more deeply into community life.

Speakers at the conference were Mr. Keichiro Shimada, professor of social work at Doshisha University, and Noboru Niwa, executive trustee of the San Iku Kai Hospital Tokyo. Prof. Shimada spoke on the relation of the churches to social work, and Niwa who had attended the 17th International Social Work Conference in Toronto this summer gave a report of the conference.

THE JAPAN BAPTIST HOSPITAL

The Japan Baptist Hospital (Nihon Baputesuto Byoin) is one of the more recently organized Christian institutions in Japan. The official opening of the clinic took place January 26, 1954, and the ground breaking for the new wing was held on August 31, 1954.

(The hospital is located at 2-47 Yama No Moto Cho, Kitashirakawa, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. It is nestled on the south side of a foothill of the Higashiyama range in a quiet residential section of town. The beautiful grounds and gorgeous view are attributes beyond worldly measurement.)

The Hospital is the property of the Japan Baptist Convention (Nihon Baputesuto Remmei) but is jointly sponsored and supported by the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States and the Japan Baptist Convention. It is hoped, that it will become a self-supporting non-profit institution.

The purpose of the hospital is three-fold:

1. To act as an agent for direct evangelism through the media of its Christian personnel,
2. To supply a course of adequate medical care with a Christian environment for Christian pastors, workers, and missionaries; thus enabling them to perform more efficiently their task in the Christian enterprise,
3. To send out from its walls trained Christian nurses, technicians, and doctors who will propagate the principles of a Christian hospital into whatever institution they enter.

It is not the primary purpose of the hospital to provide charity service to the indigent; although, as much charity work as is financially possible will be done. Pastors, missionaries, and their families, however, will receive a reduction in the cost of professional services.

The hospital will be a general hospital in professional character. At the present time the staff consists of two obstetrician-gynecologists, one urologist-dermatologist, one pediatrician and one specialist in internal medicine. All the staff has had specialized training in their respective fields. With the arrival from the States in 1955 of a pediatrician and general surgeon with training in neurosurgery, the hospital will have three Japanese and four American doctors working together in its various departments.

The nursing staff consists of two American nurses with graduate training and three Japanese nurses. Next year one additional American nurse (no in language study in Tokyo) will join the group. No application for employment in any department is accepted unless the person has been a professing Christian for a minimum of one year. It is hoped that in this way the character of the hospital as a Christian institution will be maintained.

Some general goals which have been set are as follows:

1. To demonstrate the love of God through the media of medicine.
2. To establish a modern well-equipped hospital as a model Christian hospital to help Japan in its recovery period.
3. To establish a clinic in another section of Kyoto where medical care is needed.
4. To establish a nursing school and intern training program.
5. To establish an out-patient clinic in near-by villages.
6. To establish a tuberculosis hospital. (At present tuberculous patients will be admitted only for surgery.)
7. To open a twenty to thirty bed general hospital in July 1955, increasing the number of beds to fifty by the end of 1955, and to seventy-eight by the end of 1956. After that to increase the bed capacity to 105 at which time a nursing school will be opened. To ultimately have a hospital with a maximum capacity of 130 beds.

The present hospital consists of an out-patient clinic and in-patient department with facilities for delivery and elective minor surgery. Until July 1955 the hospital will be undergoing a major building and remodeling program so that it will not be possible to offer now as complete facilities as it will in the future.

(It is hoped that this institution will be of service to both Japanese and missionaries as we seek to witness to the live of God.)

AVACO PLANS BRANCH FILM LIBRARIES

During the last few weeks Mr. Mathew Ogawa, Executive Secretary of The Audio-visual Aids Commission of the N.C.C. has been carrying on discussions toward the establishment of branch film libraries in various parts of Japan. Mr. Ogawa announced last Friday, that the obstacles are being overcome and this service will soon be open to churches, school and individuals who are too far away from Tokyo to be effectively served by the central library.

At first branches will be established in Sendai, to the northeast, and Osaka and Hiroshima, to the southwest. Later, it is hoped that additional branches can be established at Fukuoka, on the island of Kyushu; at Sapporo, on the northern island of Hokkaido, and at Nagoya. These six branches will bring A-V aids within convenient reach of almost every city in Japan.

These branches will not attempt to keep all film strips and films in including kamishibai, stock, but can carry fairly complete stock of inexpensive items, and can order others from central office on short notice. In addition, a system of sending expensive films to the branches on rotation is being worked out. A representative local committee will contact churches and kindergartens to plan in advance the effective use of a film or films during a given week. The libraries will probably be housed in Y.M.C.A. buildings through cooperative arrangements.

KANSAI TO BE SCENE OF SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN FOR BLIND

A special evengelistic campaign for the blind to be centered in the Kansai area is being planned by the Council of Evangelism for the Blind Japan. The Blind Council will cooperate with the Council of Evangelism for Cripples in the Campaign. The campaign will feature retreats, fellowship meetings, and special meetings to be held by blind pastors.

There are at present 100,000 blind in Japan of whom 2000 are Christian seven pastors. The Council which consists of twenty-six member groups receives support from the Interboard Committee and the Milton Society of England. The Council plans to compile a history of evangelical work for the blind in connection with the Centenary Movement.

